

SENIOR SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Middletown Senior Center

150 William Street

January 3, 2012

5:00 PM

1. Members Present: Councilman Philip Pessina, Councilman Ron Klattenberg, Commissioners: Ed Dypa, Ed Rubacha, Annabelle Malone, Claude Hendrickson, and Patricia Jackowski

Absent: William Wasch

Staff Present: Raymond A. Santostefano, Interim Senior Center Director, Stephan Allison, Interim Program Manager and Heidi Geores, Senior Center Staff

Absent: None

General Public: a Middletown Press representative

2. Meeting Called to Order: Called to order at 5:00.

3. Public Hearing: None

4. Approval of December Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2011 was made by Chairman Ed Dypa, seconded by Patricia Jackowski with the correction of her absence from the December meeting.

Departmental Reports:

Director Raymond A. Santostefano:

- The roof at 150 William Street has been resurfaced by the Middletown Housing Authority
- Cold weather is affecting the operation of the hydraulics in the elevator. The addition of a heater will be needed to correct the problem.
- A suicide at Sbona Towers on December 23, 2011 prompted River Valley Services to send in a mobile crisis team of grief counselors to service Senior Center patrons and residents of the towers.
- Laura Runte, Municipal Agent for the Elderly continues to assist patrons with a variety of needs including Medicare, SNAP and heating oil assistance.

Program Updates – Stephan Allison

- The Senior Center continues to seek out new programs and services to provide in addition to the already successful programs on the calendar
- Cassandra Day, editor of the Middletown Patch is planning to do an article on the differences between the Gate Keeper and Triad programs to help eliminate any confusion the seniors are having.

- The Senior Center runs an ad every Monday in the Middletown Press highlighting programs such as bus trips and the new treadmill. Councilman Pessina asks if supervision is required or necessary for patrons to use the treadmill. Mr. Allison advises that per the Risk Managers' Office, patrons can use the equipment unattended, but that waivers will be signed before using.

Old Business

- **Update on New Senior Center:**
 - Councilman Ron Klattenberg reported that there will be a meeting of the building committee on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 6:00 in the Police Station. A brief write up of meetings will be supplied to the Senior Center for printing in the monthly newsletter.
 - Architects are expected to present several floor plans with options for discussion.
 - Apple Rehab plans to donate a treadmill, a stationary bike and large screen television as well as nutrition and health counseling at the new center.
 - Commissioner Jackowski inquires what the expected timeline for the opening of the new center will be. Councilman Klattenberg replies that all of the processes required to renovate the building may take two or more years to complete.
- **Update on Triad:**
 - Commissioner Dypa reports that Triad will again be involved in planning the Health and Safety Day scheduled for July, along with Lou Carta and the Health Department. Interim Director, Raymond A. Santostefano offers the use of canopies provided thru the Parks and Recreation Department to assist in the event of rain.

New Business:

Miscellaneous:

- Commissioner Phyllis Pollock has passed away. Services will be held Saturday, January 7, 2012 at noon at St. Pius Church
- Tom Hutton is expected to be appointed to the Senior Services Commission.
- Chairman Dypa informed the group of a program called "Refuse to be a Victim" that he feels would be beneficial to our patrons.
- **Portable Defibrillator:**
 - Options for obtaining a portable defibrillator are discussed. The Health Department may be involved in the process.
 - Commissioner Malone inquired about staff being trained for proper use of the equipment once it is acquired.

Adjournment: Commissioner Dypa moved to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Ron Klattenberg and motion unanimously approved at 5:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Geores